

TRINITY CHURCH, NORTH FINCHLEY (BAPTIST/UNITED REFORMED CHURCH)

Registered Address

15 Nether Street
London
N12 7NN

Charity Registration Number 1164151

Trustees

The Revd Paul Martin
Miss Lynn Harvey (Secretary)
Mr Ian Anderson (Treasurer)
Miss Catherine Anderson
Mrs Ann Doyle [re-elected 2017]
Mr David James
Mr Ratna Pradhan
Mrs Pamela Sharpe
Mr John Stewart
Mrs Susan Stewart [re-elected 2017]

Property Trustees

URC Thames North Synod Trust
St Paul's United Reformed Church
Newton Road
Bayswater
London W2 5LS

London Baptist Property Board
235 Shaftesbury Avenue
London WC2H 8EP

Bankers

National Westminster Bank plc
Whetstone N20

Independent Examiner

Behnaz Rayati ACCA
Expert Accounting & Finance Ltd
Vista Business Centre
50 Salisbury Road
London TW4 6JQ

Annual Report for 2017

The trustees present their Annual Report and financial statements for 2017.

Charitable Object

The Charity is governed by an Approved Governing Document which states that the principal purpose of the charity is the advancement of the Christian faith according to the principles of the Baptist and United Reformed Church denominations to include the celebration of public worship, the teaching of the Christian faith, mission, evangelism, pastoral work, the provision of facilities with a Christian ethos for the local community and the support of other charities in the UK and overseas.

The Church is a Single Congregation Local Ecumenical Partnership. It occupies premises which are held by the URC Thames North Synod Trust, and are the subject of a Church Sharing Agreement, enabling the premises to be used by the Local Ecumenical Partnership.

Organisational Structure and Decision making processes

Members of the Church are accepted in accordance with the Constitution. The members Meeting normally takes place six times each year and has responsibility for the agreeing the overall policy of the church.

In accordance with the Constitution, the members appoint up to ten Trustees, who are known as elders. In addition to this the minister (who is also appointed by the church members) also serves as a trustee. The trustees are responsible for the day to day running of the church's work and witness, and the financial and legal aspects of the charity. All members are encouraged to take an appropriate part in the spiritual and practical tasks involved in the furtherance of the charitable objective.

The constitution gives the trustees the power to co-opt up to four additional trustees, but they have not enacted this power during the period of this report.

Relevant matters may be submitted to the Church meeting by the Trustees for guidance, or may be raised by members in Church meeting for further consideration by the Trustees. Though the Constitution permits decisions to be made at Church meetings by appropriate majorities, the Church seeks to work by consensus wherever possible.

Objectives and Activities

In order to achieve the principal objective which is set out above, the Church provides a variety of activities both to its membership and to the community generally.

Central to the work and witness of the Church is the provision of regular public services of Christian worship. These services take place each Sunday at 11 am. There is a programme of activities for children during the Sunday services. The church seeks to be a friendly and welcoming community and anybody is free to attend any of these services.

The Church operates systems to ensure that all people working with children and vulnerable adults are appropriately vetted with DBS checks and are trained in safeguarding procedures.

The church sees a major part of its mission as providing facilities for local community groups in its premises through the week. The church has been successful in attracting a wide range of groups into the church premises, offering a wide provision of services and activities to the wider community.

The church has read the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit, and is satisfied that the activities outlined above clearly demonstrates that the charity is providing a benefit to the public.

Review of the year

Worship and Spiritual

In addition to our normal services and Bible Studies several new initiatives were introduced to enhance the spiritual life of the church and wider community

- St Margaret's URC Finchley held their services on our premises each week. We shared worship one Sunday each month and special services over Easter, Harvest, Remembrance and Christmas.
- Farsi Bibles were provided for our Iranian adherents and members
- Orders of worship listed the weekly readings in Farsi
- Baptismal classes were held
- A prayer labyrinth was made and available in Easter Week to the public, as well as members of our congregation, of Churches Together in Finchley and the North London Local Area Group of Thames North URC
- Our minister provided support to a local Baptist /URC church serving as their interim Moderator

Our minister went on Sabbatical and we were pleased that Rev Dr Ann Jeffers minister of St Margaret's led our worship in his absence with help from some of our Elders.

Pastoral/Social

-Eight new members joined Trinity in 2017 – all by Believers Baptism, and all originally from Iran. There was also an infant baptism.

-There was a shared lunch after our Covenant service.

-Following the successful introduction of a time of fun, games, quizzes and refreshments 'Fun and Fellowship' last year this was held again on Wednesdays in August.

-We introduced a 'Holiday at Home' for those who are unable to take a holiday. This was made available to members and friends of Trinity and St Margaret's. This provided activities and entertainment, morning coffee, lunch and afternoon tea over three days in August. This was a free event and well received.

Junior Church and Creche

Our loyal team of Junior Church leaders continued to provide a varied programme of activities for our children and young people on Sunday mornings. It has been good to see new children join crèche during the year.

The annual Junior Church picnic was held in September, and the Junior Church took responsibility for leading one of the services during the minister's sabbatical. Once again a DVD of the Christmas story was produced.

We were sorry to have to say 'Goodbye' to Lydia Constantinou in December when she moved to Scotland. Lydia has co-ordinated the work of our Junior Church for a number of years and her enthusiasm and creativity will be greatly missed.

Ecumenical

Our strong links with Churches Together in Finchley (CTiF) continued this year. We participated in events such as Lent Bible Studies and Lunches, Good Friday Procession of Witness and United service, prayer meetings, and the Women's World Day of Prayer.

Our minister and Church secretary represent us at the North London Local Area Group (NLLAG) of North Thames Synod of the United Reformed Church which was formed this year.

Our minister, with others, has started a lunch group for local ministers.

We are also part of the Finchley Council of Christians and Jews.

Mission and Evangelism

We continued to explore the employment of an additional worker to support our work with children and young people in the church and wider community.

In the Autumn, under the leadership of Pam Sharpe, we began *Tiddlers* – a group for mothers and carers with children under 12 months old. *Tiddlers* meets every Wednesday morning during term time.

The work of our Church Centre continues to thrive, making our buildings available to a wide range of community groups and charities. We are grateful to our Church Warden, Joe Strzelecki and our Administrator, Mira Gaspar for their dedication in continuing to develop this important part of our mission. In November Eric Bates was appointed on a part time basis to offer cover for Joe when he is off duty and to provide additional help with concerts.

We have supported various charities throughout the year by collections and our policy to charge a lower rate to hirers of bona fide charities.

We supported Water Aid through the 'Jars of Change' initiative. Our contributions to Christian Aid are channelled through the URC's Commitment for Life programme with a focus on Central America.

We support Pathway, a group that do school assemblies and Christian lunch and after school clubs. We continue to support Anna Wood in her Christian service in Canada.

Our Harvest gifts were donated to Homeless Action in Barnet (HAB).

Our premises hosted one night of the Together in Barnet Night Shelter each week over several months with the staffing provided by St John's Church, Whetstone.

The annual Toy Service in Advent provided gifts of presents for the children of refugees supported by the Barnet Refugee Service.

Traidcraft goods go on sale every Sunday and we promote its work during Fair Trade Fortnight and a pre-Christmas stall for our premises users.

Financial Review

The Church continues to raise the funds which it needs to carry on its activities from within its own membership and congregation and from income from hiring the church premises. No wider public appeal was made for funds during the year.

The financial results for the year, together with a summary of the accounting policies adopted are set out in the accompanying financial statements.

During the year the church expenditure exceeded income by £38,125. This was largely due to necessary repair of the buttresses. In addition to this over £27,000 was paid directly by the URC Thames North Trust from assets held on behalf of Trinity Church, for the purchase of new chairs and for the re-upholstery of the chairs in the sanctuary.

The Trustees are satisfied that they have sufficient reserves at the end of the financial year, together with ongoing income anticipated, to enable the church to function effectively in the coming year.

The Trustees have made an assessment of the major risks facing the church, and are satisfied that there are policies in place to minimise these risks.

Lynn Harvey (Secretary)

Ian Anderson (Treasurer)

Paul Martin (Minister)

24 June 2017